

OTTAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

CHILD CARE PROGRAM
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Date: February 24, 2021

TO: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CHILD CARE

The Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) plans to use the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funds to support childcare providers in centers and family homes in the following way:

DIRECT CHILD CARE SERVICES (Subsidies):

The Ottawa Tribe CCDF program will provide direct child care services to those deemed essential or frontline workers to include health care sector employees, emergency responders, food service workers/suppliers and sanitation workers as well as others meeting federal, state and/or tribal designation as essential workers. Applicants must complete an Essential Worker Declaration form which certifies their employment as an essential worker. These families will be classified under protective services and childcare will be provided without regard to family income. Information about the availability of childcare service for essential workers will be shared throughout the service area through social media, tribal website and direct contact with childcare providers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF VIRUS MITIGATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES:

The Ottawa Tribe CCDF program will support child care providers through resources, supplies and technical assistance grants to implement health and safety practices as indicated by state & local health departments and the CDC. Providers may apply for cleaning & sanitation grants, PPE, and other grants as needed to meet specific health and safety guidelines.

GRANTS OR ASSISTANCE (Other Than Subsidies) TO STABILIZE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

The Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma will give stabilization grants to providers demonstrating increased operating expenses and/or decreased income as a result of the Covid-19 public health emergency. Further federal guidance is needed to fully implement.

ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDERS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSIDY PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC:

The Ottawa Tribe CCDF program, as required, will appropriate a portion of the CRRSA funds to assist those child care providers who, prior to Covid-19, were eligible but not receiving CCDF subsidy. These funds may be given as health and safety grants such as to purchase PPE, or cleaning & sanitation supplies, or as stabilization grants which may help with the fixed cost of care or increased operating expenses. Further federal guidance is needed to implement this requirement.

OTHER:

The Ottawa Tribe CCDF program will use a portion of CRRSA funds to implement natural outdoor learning environments and outdoor classrooms. This would also include materials, equipment, and supplies to providers for usage at the outdoor classrooms. Funds will also be used to support the recruitment of early childhood education students to include books, tuition and stipends in an effort to enhance and increase the early childhood workforce. In addition, funds may be used to upgrade technology within the CCDF administration and for providers.

Sincerely,
/s/

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David L. Hargis", is written over a faint, colorful, abstract background graphic.

CCDF Director
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma